REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	31 March 1998
Name of applicant/court:	The District Court at Napier
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Country Comfort/Brief Affair/Shameless
Other Known Titles:	Untitled, Numbered 118
Directors:	Derek Ashburne/Louie Lewis/Lawrence Cole
Producers:	Dominoco Sala/JoAnne Lewis/Not Stated
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Video Recording VHS/PAL
Country of Origin:	Not Stated
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined:

Features:	Country Comfort	Running time:	80.02
	Brief Affair		77.39
	Shameless		23.09
Trailers:	Caballero Control Corporation Notice	Running time:	0.07
	First Amendment Notice		1.01
	First Amendment Notice		0.46
		Total Running time:	182.44

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains explicit sex scenes.

● ●

Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The video recording *Country Comfort/Brief Affair/Shameless* is classified as: Objectionable except if its availability is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The video recording consists of three features, the third of which is incomplete. *Country Comfort* contains depictions of two young women engaging in sexual activity with an older man. However, their ages are ambiguous, and in the absence of any clear indication that they are intended to be perceived as young persons, the Classification Office finds that the publication does not tend to promote or support the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes.

Country Comfort also contains a scene in which a woman uses mild coercion to induce her sister-in-law to engage in sexual activity with her. The extent to which the publication as a whole depicts sexual coercion is low (limited to one incident). The degree of coercion is also low, and the manner in which it is portrayed limits its impact (the coercion functions primarily as a plot device rather than as an erotic element).

Brief Affair contains an isolated depiction of mildly demeaning conduct. Again, the extent, degree and manner of the depiction limits its significance in terms of the classification decision.

In addition, the video recording as a whole has a notably mild tone, and is of minor cultural interest.

Overall, the availability of the video recording is not likely to be injurious to the public good, providing it is restricted to an adult audience. This restriction is necessary due to the publication's sexually explicit content, and is a reasonable limit on s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, which protects the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form.

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